

State Of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Division of State Parks  
Honolulu, Hawaii

September 11, 2009

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii

SUBJECT: Request for Special Use Permit to Hold the 2010 International  
Haari Boat Festival on a Portion of Wailoa River State Recreation  
Area, Hilo, Hawaii

Hui Okinawa is requesting a special use permit on a portion of the Wailoa River State Recreation Area (Event Area) to host the 2010 International Haari Boat Festival (Event).

The Wailoa River State Recreation Area (SRA) has been the site of past Haari Boat Races.

In 1990, a statewide celebration commemorating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Okinawan emigration to Hawaii was observed. As part of the celebration, a Haari Boat Race Festival was held at the Wailoa River SRA during the Admission Day weekend utilizing Haari Boats donated to Hui Okinawa by the people of Nago City, Okinawa. The Festival was such a success that it was held annually until 1996.

After a brief absence, the Festival was again held to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Okinawan emigration to Hawaii. The Y2K Festival was one of the State's Hawaii 2000 Millennium Commission Events.

The last Haari Board Race Festival was held in 2008 at the Wailoa River SRA.

By letter dated March 4, 2009 (Exhibit A), Ms. Margaret Torigoe, President of Hui Okinawa, has provided a general overview of the Event and a rough timeline.

"The purpose of the 2010 International Haari Boat Festival is to foster cultural understanding and camaraderie through a series of friendly boat racing competitions, music, food, dance, and sharing of the Okinawan culture. More than 2,500 people have attended the Haari Boat Festival held in 2008 and in previous years.

Mayor Shimabukuro of Nago City, Japan (one of Hawai'i County's Sister Cities for more than 20 years), brought his championship Haari Boat team to the 2008

Festival and was a great hit in Hilo. This year, Hui Okinawa will be sending a Haari Boat team named "Chibariyo!" (or Got For It!) to the Nago City Haari Boat Race Event on August 2, 2009. We hope the Mayor will send a team with an entourage to our next festival in 2010.

The event would be open and free to the public, and would feature canoe clubs and Haari Boat teams from throughout the Hawaiian Islands and around the world. In addition to the prospect of having a team from Nago City, current partners in this endeavor include the County of Hawai'i (Mayor's Office, Parks and Recreation Department, Department of Research and Development); Hui Okinawa, and numerous canoe clubs from Hawai'i island and neighboring islands.

The 2010 International Haari Boat Festival would take place on Saturday, August 21st from 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM. However, we would like to request use of the park from Friday, August 20th, beginning at 8:00 AM, through Saturday, August 21st at 11:00 PM to allow for set-up, on-site food preparation, practice rounds for the Haari teams, the competition and festival, a post-event social, break down and clean up."

Additionally, the letter requests,

"that the policy restricting cash sales in the park be waived for this event. Through the sale of plate lunches, packaged foods, Okinawan products, crafts and T-shirts, festival organizers will earn the funds that pay for the Festival. Proceeds in excess of Festival expenses will go to support Hui Okinawa's mission to promote and foster an understanding and appreciation of the Okinawan culture, provide day camps for island children, and purchase Taiko drums and sponsor visiting artists at musical and dance performances throughout the year."

The Wailoa River State Recreation Area is an ideal venue for the Event. The Event Site can accommodate a large crowd and the spectators will be able to view the entire boat race from either side of the river bank. In past Events, the race followed a looped course with three (3) boats entered in each race.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

- A. Approve the issuance of a Special Use Permit to Hui Okinawa (Permittee) to hold the 2010 International Haari Board Festival (Event) on a portion of the Wailoa River State Recreation Area (Event Site) for the period August 20-21, 2010, in accordance with the representatives above-mentioned, which are incorporated herein and subject to the following conditions whereby the Permittee shall:

1. be allowed to operate food concession booths, vendor sales booths of Okinawan arts, crafts and other products, sales booths of Event and/or Hui Okinawa related merchandise and to accept donations for the duration of the Special Use Permit, provided, the sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited;
2. be responsible for daily clean up of the Event Site and spillover areas during the permit period and for the final clean up at the conclusion of the Event to the satisfaction of the department. The clean up shall include the disposal at an authorized sanitary landfill of all waste and rubbish generated during the Event;
3. provide supplies (i.e.- toilet paper, soap, etc.) in the restrooms, as needed, and clean restrooms during the hours of the Event as well as monitor the cleanliness of the restrooms on an hourly basis;
4. provide and hire security which shall include at least one (1) DLNR Conservation and Resources Enforcement Officer (CREO). Such DLNR CREO shall begin work at least one hour prior to the Event's opening, shall be present at the Event Site during all hours of operation up to one hour after the closing of the Event. Other security personnel may include special duty Hawaii County Police Officer(s) and/or other licensed, uniformed security personnel, etc.;
5. direct parking and traffic flow and provide and set up traffic cones and barricades as may be required;
6. obtain all necessary County of Hawaii and State of Hawaii permits;
7. provide their own electricity. Use of power lines is permitted if the hookup is under the supervision of a licensed electrical contractor and the power is separately metered for billing to the Permittee or in lieu of such hookup, pay a fee of \$100 to the Division of State Parks for electricity usage. The Permittee shall be responsible for any damages incurred during the event and/or for services and repairs required during the event (i.e. - blown circuits, tripping of circuits, fire, etc.). Use of water, except for dust control, is permitted if not excessive;
8. be liable for repairs, replacement and/or payment for any damages incurred at the Event Site during the period of this permit;
9. provide security against serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages and use of illegal drugs;
10. waive any and all claims they may have against the State of Hawaii and its respective officers, agents and employees, and agrees to defend, hold harmless and indemnify the State of Hawaii and its respective officers,

agents and employees from any suits, actions and claims arising out of and in any way connected with the activities permitted under the permit;

11. procure and maintain, at its own cost and expense, in full force and effect throughout the term of this Special Use permit, commercial general liability insurance, in an amount of at least \$500,000.00 for each occurrence and \$1,000,000.00 aggregate, with an insurance company or companies licensed to do business in the State of Hawaii. The policy or policies of insurance shall name the State of Hawaii as an additional insured. The insurance shall cover the entire Event Site, including all grounds and all roadways or sidewalks on or adjacent to the Event Site in the use or control of the Permittee;
12. operate food concession booths in compliance with all applicable State Department of Health rules and regulations and the Fire Code of the County of Hawaii;
13. schedule two inspections with a State Parks representative; the first, during the week prior to the start of set up for the Event and the second, upon completion of the break down and clean up of the Event Site. Permit conditions will be reviewed during the first scheduled inspection;
14. not obstruct or unreasonably interfere with the general public in their normal use of the Wailoa River State Recreation Area;
15. have only licensed, uniformed security personnel at the Event Site overnight;
16. pay a rental fee of \$100 per day for the Pre-Event set up, the Event and the Post-Event break down and clean up;
17. comply with any other conditions that may be imposed by the Department, the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Chairperson and/or rule revisions adopted prior to the commencement of the Event.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel S. Quinn  
State Parks Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



LAURA H. THIELEN, Chairperson